In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 21, 27, 33 and 36 as indicated below.

1. (Currently amended) A method for automated discovery of data, comprising:

producing a resource definition for at least one computer-implemented resource, wherein the at least one resource is at least one source resource containing a set of information objects, wherein each resource definition is a source resource definition, and wherein said producing comprises defining each ~~at least one computer-implemented~~ source resource ~~containing a set of information objects~~, wherein the set of information objects defines a set of users~~, wherein said defining at least one computer-implemented source resource produces a source resource definition for each at least one source resource~~;

using the source resource definition for each at least one source resource to discover said set of users from said source resource; wherein said using the source resource definition is performed by a computer program process;

defining an additional resource containing a second set of information objects, wherein each information object from said second set of information objects corresponds to a user from said set of users, wherein said defining an additional resource produces an additional resource definition;

using the additional resource definition to discover said second set of information objects from said additional resource; wherein said using the additional resource definition is performed by the computer program process; and

generating and storing data specifying an association of each information object from said second set of information objects with the corresponding user from said set of users and with said additional resource; wherein said generating and said storing are performed by the computer program process.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

defining a correlation rule; and

associating each information object from said second set of information objects with the corresponding user from said set of users based on said correlation rule.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

defining a correlation rule;

discovering said set of users from multiple source resources; and

rejecting duplicate users from said set of users based on said correlation rule.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

creating a virtual identity for each user from said set of users, wherein each virtual identity includes an information object list associating at least one of said information objects from said second set of information objects with the corresponding user and with the said second resource.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said information object list comprises:

an information object name; and

a resource name, wherein the resource name corresponds to the resource from which the information object corresponding to the information object name was discovered.

6. (Original)   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing connection information for said source resource; and

providing connection information for said additional resource.

7. (Original)   The method of claim 6, wherein the connection information for said source resource includes a hostname, a port, a username and a password and wherein the connection information for said additional resource includes a hostname, a port, a username and a password.

8. (Original)   The method of claim 1, further comprising defining a schema map, wherein the schema map maps an attribute from said source resource to a virtual attribute.

9. (Original)   The method of claim 1, further comprising a schema map, wherein said schema map maps an attribute from said additional resource to a virtual attribute.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

creating a virtual identity for each user from said set of users, wherein each virtual identity includes an information object list associating at least one of said information objects from said second set of information objects with the corresponding user.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein said information object list comprises:

an information object name; and

a resource name, wherein the resource name corresponds to the resource from which the information object corresponding to the information object name was discovered.

12. (Previously presented) A method of discovering users and accounts, comprising:

defining at least one computer-implemented source resource containing a first set of user accounts from which a set of users are discoverable, wherein said defining produces a definition for each at least one source resource;

using the definition for each at least one source resource to discover said set of users based on said set of user accounts; wherein said using is performed by a computer program process; and

generating and storing data specifying an association of each user account from said first set of user accounts with the corresponding user and with said source resource; wherein said generating and said storing are performed by the computer program process.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said first set of user accounts resides on multiple source resources, further comprising:

defining a correlation rule;

discovering said set of users from said multiple source resources; and

rejecting duplicate users according to said correlation rule.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising:

defining an additional resource containing a second set of user accounts, wherein each user account from said second set of user accounts corresponds to a user from said set of users;

discovering said second set of user accounts based on said additional resource definition; and

associating each of said second set of user accounts with the corresponding user from said set of users and with said additional resource.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

defining a correlation rule;

associating each of said second set of user accounts with a user from said set of users based on said correlation rule.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

creating a virtual identity for each user, wherein said virtual identity includes an account list associating resource accounts to the corresponding user.

17. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising identifying said additional resource.

18. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising defining a schema map for said additional resource.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising mapping an attribute from said second set of resource accounts to a virtual attribute.

20. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising defining one or more roles for one or more users.

21. (Currently amended) A system for discovering information on a network, comprising:

a computer readable ~~medium~~ memory; and

a software program stored on said computer readable ~~medium~~ memory and executable by a computer processor to:

receive a first resource definition, wherein said first resource contains a first set of information objects from which a set of users are discoverable;

connect to said first resource;

discover said user names;

receive a second resource definition, wherein said second resource contains a second set of information objects and wherein each of said second set of information objects corresponds to a user from said set of users;

discover said second set of information objects from said second resource;

associate each information object from said second set of information objects with the corresponding user; and

store data specifying an association of each information object from said second set of information objects with the corresponding user.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein said software program is further executable to:

receive a correlation rule; and

associate each information object from said second set of information objects with the corresponding user based on said correlation rule.

23. (Original) The system of claim 21, further comprising:

receiving a schema map for said second resource, wherein said schema map maps attributes from said second resource to virtual attributes.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein said virtual attributes are stored an identity index.

25. (Original) The system of claim 21, further comprising creating a virtual identity for each user from said set of users.

26. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein said virtual identity includes an information object list associating said user with corresponding information objects.

27. (Currently amended) A system for discovering information on a network, comprising:

a computer readable ~~medium~~ memory; and

a software program stored on said computer readable ~~medium~~ memory and executable by a computer processor to:

receive a first resource definition, wherein said first resource contains a first set of resource from which a set of users are discoverable;

connect to said first resource;

discover said user names;

receive a second resource definition, wherein said second resource contains a second set of resource accounts and wherein each of said second set of resource accounts corresponds to a user from said set of users;

discover said second set of resource accounts from said second resource;

associate each resource account from said second set of resource accounts with the corresponding user; and

store data specifying an association of each resource account from said second set of resource accounts with the corresponding user.

28. (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein said software program is further executable to:

receive a correlation rule; and

associate each resource account from said second set of resource accounts with the corresponding user based on said correlation rule.

29. (Original) The system of claim 27, further comprising:

receiving a schema map for said second resource, wherein said schema map maps attributes from said second resource to virtual attributes.

30. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein said virtual attributes are stored an identity index.

31. (Original) The system of claim 27, further comprising creating a virtual identity for each user from said set of users.

32. (Previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein said virtual identity includes a resource account list associated said user with corresponding resource accounts.

33. (Currently amended) A method for automated discovery of data, comprising:

receiving from a first administrator a definition of at least one computer-implemented ~~source~~ resource containing a set of information objects, wherein the set of information objects defines a set of users, and wherein the at least one resource is at least one source resource;

using the definition of the at least one source resource to discover said set of users from said source resource; wherein said using the definition of the at least one source resource is performed by a computer program process;

receiving from said first administrator a definition of a second resource containing a second set of information objects, wherein each information object from

said second set of information objects corresponds to a user from said set of users;

using the definition of the second resource to discover said second set of information objects from said second resource; wherein said using the definition of the second resource is performed by the computer program process; and

generating and storing data specifying an association of each information object from said second set of information objects with the corresponding user from said set of users; wherein said generating and said storing are performed by the computer program process.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33, further comprising:

receiving from a second administrator a definition of at least one additional resource containing a third set of information objects, wherein each information object from said third set of information objects corresponds to a user from said set of users;

associating each information object from said third set of information objects with the corresponding user from said set of users.

35. (Original) The method of claim 34, further comprising, receiving a stray account definition from an end user.

36. (Currently amended) A method for discovering information, comprising:

receiving a ~~source~~ resource definition from a first administrator, <u>wherein the resource definition is a source resource definition for a source resource,</u>

wherein a set of users are discoverable from said source resource, wherein said source resource is a computer-implemented resource;

using the source resource definition to discover said set of users from said source resource; wherein said using the source resource definition is performed by a computer program process;

receiving an additional resource definition for an additional resource from a second administrator, wherein said additional resource contains information objects corresponding to each user from said set of users;

using the additional resource definition to discover said information objects from said additional resource; wherein said using the additional resource definition is performed by the computer program process; and

generating and storing data specifying an association of said information objects with said users from said set of users; wherein said generating and storing are performed by the computer program process.

37. (Original) The method of claim 36, wherein said information objects comprise user accounts.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, further comprising, receiving a user resource definition from an end-user, wherein said user resource contains an additional information object corresponding to said user; and

associating said additional information object with said user.

39. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein said additional information object comprises a user account.

40. (Original) The method of claim 38, further comprising:

requiring authentication from said user before associating said additional
information object with said user.

41. (Previously presented) A method for discovering data, comprising:

defining a computer-implemented first resource containing information objects
defining at least one user from a set of users, wherein said defining
produces a definition for the first resource;

using the definition to discover said information objects based on said first
resource definition; wherein said using is performed by a computer
program process;

generating and storing data specifying an association of each of said information
objects with a user from said set of users and with said first resource;
wherein said generating and storing are performed by the computer
program process.

42. (Original) The method of claim 41 wherein said resource comprises a source
resource.

43. (Original) The method of claim 41, further comprising:

defining a source resource; and

discovering said set of users from said source resource.

44. (Original) The method of claim 41, wherein said information objects
comprise user accounts.

45. (Original) The method of claim 44, further comprising:

creating a virtual identity for each user from said set of users;

maintaining a resource account list for each virtual identity, wherein the resource account list for each virtual identity lists the resource accounts with which the corresponding user is associated and the resource from which each resource account was discovered.

46. (Original) The method of claim 45, further comprising:

defining a schema map for said first resource, wherein said schema map maps an attribute from said first resource to a virtual attribute.

47. (Original) The method of claim 41, further comprising, defining a role for at least one user from said set of users.

48. (Previously presented) A method of discovering information, comprising:

receiving a first resource definition from a first administrator, wherein said first resource contains a first set of information objects defining at least one user from a set of users, wherein said first resource is a computer-implemented resource;

receiving a second resource definition from a second administrator, wherein said second resource contains a second set of information objects defining at least one user from said set of users;

using the first resource definition to discover said first set of information objects from said first resource; wherein said using the first resource definition is performed by a computer program process;

generating and storing data specifying an association of each information object from said first set of information objects with at least one user from said set of users and with said first resource; wherein said generating and storing are performed by the computer program process;

using the second resource definition to discover said second set of information objects from said second resource; wherein said using the second resource definition is performed by the computer program process; and

generating and storing data specifying an association of each information object from said second set of information objects with at least one user from said set of users and with said second resource; wherein said generating and storing are performed by the computer program process.

49. (Original) The method of claim 48, further comprising:

receiving a first source resource definition from said first administrator, wherein said source resource contains information objects defining at least a first portion of said set of users; and

discovering at least said first portion of said set of users from said first source resource.

50. (Original) The method of claim 49, further comprising:

receiving a second source resource definition from said second administrator, wherein said second source resource contains information objects defining at least a second portion of said set of users; and

discovering at least said second portion of said set of users from said second source resource.

51. (Original) The method of claim 50, further comprising:

receiving a third resource definition from an end-user, wherein said third resource contains a stray information object;

discovering said stray information object from said third resource; and

associating said stray information object with said end-user and with said third resource.

52. (Previously presented) A method for discovering information, comprising:

defining a plurality of computer-implemented resources, wherein each of the plurality of resources contains a set of information objects defining at least one user from a set of users, wherein said defining produces a definition for each of the resources;

using each definition to discover said sets of information objects from each of the plurality of resources; wherein said using each definition is performed by a computer program process; and

generating and storing data specifying an association of each information object from said sets of information objects with a user from said set of users and with the resource from which the corresponding information object was

discovered; wherein said generating and storing are performed by the computer program process.

53. (Original) The method of claim 52, further comprising:

defining at least one source resource from which said set of users are discoverable; and

discovering said set of users from said at least one source resource.

54. (Original) The method of claim 53, further comprising:

associating each source resource information object from a set of source resource information objects with a user from said set of users and with said source resource, wherein said source resource further comprises said set of source resource information objects defining said set of users.

55. (Original) The method of claim 52, further comprising:

defining a correlation rule; and

associating each information object from said sets of information objects with a user based on said correlation rule.

56. (Original) The method of claim 52, wherein each information object comprises a resource account.

57. (Original) The method of claim 56, further comprising creating a virtual identity for each user, wherein each said virtual identity comprises a resource account list comprising a list of information objects associated with the corresponding user and the resource from which each such information object was discovered.

58. (Original) The method of claim 52, further comprising providing connection information for each of the plurality of resources.

59. (Original) The method of claim 52, further comprising defining at least one role for at least one user from said set of users, wherein said at least one role defines a set of resources from said plurality of resources from which information objects will be discovered for the corresponding user.